

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **October 8, 2002**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **7**

CONSENT: **X**

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

(Confidential)

ITEM TITLE: U.S. Department Of Justice Award Of A Two-Year Grant To The Office Of The Commonwealth's Attorney For The Continuation Of Its Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney's participation in this grant program and the appropriation of grant monies to the City/Federal/State Aid Fund.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney has received an award of a federally funded two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to continue its Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit (DVPU). The total grant award for the two-year period is \$595,000 and will fund specially-trained prosecutors and investigators in a continued effort to reduce instances of domestic violence in the community. Initially formed in 1997, the Unit's main purpose was, and remains to this day, to hold those accountable who engage in acts of domestic violence and to ensure that those who are victims of domestic violence are treated with dignity and compassion throughout the entire criminal justice process.

Since its inception, the Unit has prosecuted over 2,700 cases of domestic violence; 671 of such cases were prosecuted during the 2001 calendar year. Five domestic violence homicides occurred in the City last year, with three of the five murders committed with a firearm.

In addition to the aggressive investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases, a primary focus for the DVPU over the next two years will be the development of a multi-agency domestic violence Fatality Review Team. The Fatality Review Team will review and analyze domestic violence homicides in an effort to improve the systems and services currently available for victims of domestic assault.

PRIOR ACTION(S): none

BUDGET IMPACT: The \$595,000 grant award is fully reimbursable from the U.S. Department of Justice and no local match is required. At this time, half of the grant award (\$297,500) will be appropriated to the City/Federal/State Aid Fund for the remainder of FY03 with the remaining monies reserved for the FY04 budget.

Exit Strategy: The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office needs a minimum of 10 Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys to effectively prosecute its existing caseload for the City. In the past, the OCA has relied on grant funding opportunities to ensure staffing levels are maintained at an acceptable level. If the domestic violence grant is not renewed by the closing of the grant period, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney will seek alternative funding sources to continue program efforts. Under the reality of current budget restraints, it is highly unlikely that the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office would seek funding from the City to continue its Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit, without exhausting all possible funding options first. Should no further funding be available at any level (Federal/State/Local), the Office will have no choice but to terminate its domestic violence program.

CONTACT(S): William G. Petty, Commonwealth's Attorney

847-1593, ext. 225

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution, Budget form, U.S. Department of Justice grant award letter and statement of grant award/acceptance

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to accept a grant in the amount of \$595,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, for the continuation of the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

207L



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20531

August 30, 2002

The Honorable William Petty
City of Lynchburg
P.O. Box 60
901 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24505-1593

Dear Mr. Petty:

I am pleased to inform you that the Office of Justice Programs has approved the application for funding under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program in the amount of \$595,000 for City of Lynchburg. This grant award, made under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, is to encourage the treatment of domestic violence and sexual assault as serious violations of criminal law.

Enclosed you will find the Grant Award and Special Conditions documents. This award is subject to all administrative and financial requirements, including the timely submission of all financial and programmatic reports, resolution of all interim audit findings, and the maintenance of a minimum level of cash-on-hand. Should you not adhere to these requirements, you will be in violation of the terms of this agreement and the award will be subject to termination for cause or other administrative action as appropriate.

If you have questions regarding this award, please contact:

- Program Questions, Ila Blue, Program Manager at (202) 305-2713; and
- Financial Questions, the Office of the Comptroller, Customer Service Center (CSC) at (800) 458-0786, or you may contact the CSC at askoc@ojp.usdoj.gov.

Congratulations, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Daniels
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures

RECEIVED

SEP 03 2002

Commonwealth Attorney

File # _____



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Violence Against
Women Office

Grant

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1. RECIPIENT NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code)

City of Lynchburg
P.O. Box 60 901 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24505-1593

4. AWARD NUMBER: 97-WE-VX-0096

5. PROJECT PERIOD: FROM 03/01/1997 TO 08/31/2004

BUDGET PERIOD: FROM 03/01/1997 TO 08/31/2004

6. AWARD DATE 08/30/2002

7. ACTION

1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NO.

546001405

8. SUPPLEMENT NUMBER

03

Supplemental

9. PREVIOUS AWARD AMOUNT \$ 1,045,294

3. PROJECT TITLE

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection
Orders Program

10. AMOUNT OF THIS AWARD \$ 595,000

11. TOTAL AWARD \$ 1,640,294

12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

THE ABOVE GRANT PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS OR LIMITATIONS AS ARE SET FORTH
ON THE ATTACHED 2 PAGE(S).

13. STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR GRANT

This project is supported under Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3701, ET. SEQ., as amended.

15. METHOD OF PAYMENT

PAPRS

AGENCY APPROVAL

GRANTEE ACCEPTANCE

16. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF APPROVING OJP OFFICIAL

Deborah J. Daniels
Assistant Attorney General

18. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL

William Petty
Commonwealth's Attorney

17. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OJP OFFICIAL

19. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED RECIPIENT OFFICIAL

19A. DATE

AGENCY USE ONLY

20. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODES

FISCAL YEAR	FUND CODE	BUD. ACT.	DIV. OFC.	REG.	SUB.	POMS	AMOUNT
X	B	W4	29	00	00		595000

21. W402D00040



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

**Violence Against
Women Office**

**GRANT MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM, PT. I:
PROJECT SUMMARY**

~~Grant~~

PROJECT NUMBER

97-WE-VX-0096

PAGE 1 OF 1

This project is supported under Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3701, ET. SEQ., as amended.

1. STAFF CONTACT (Name, address & telephone number)

Ila Blue
(202) 305-2713

2. PROJECT DIRECTOR (Name, address & telephone number)

William Petty
Commonwealth's Attorney
P.O. Box 60
901 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24505 - 1593
(434) 847-1593 225

3a. TITLE OF THE PROGRAM

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

**3b. POMS CODE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS
ON REVERSE)**

4. TITLE OF PROJECT

5. NAME & ADDRESS OF GRANTEE

City of Lynchburg
P.O. Box 60 901 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24505-1593

6. NAME & ADDRESS OF SUBGRANTEE

7. PROGRAM PERIOD

FROM: 03/01/1997 TO: 08/31/2004

8. BUDGET PERIOD

FROM: 03/01/1997 TO: 08/31/2004

9. AMOUNT OF AWARD

\$ 595,000

10. DATE OF AWARD

08/30/2002

11. SECOND YEAR'S BUDGET

12. SECOND YEAR'S BUDGET AMOUNT

13. THIRD YEAR'S BUDGET PERIOD

14. THIRD YEAR'S BUDGET AMOUNT

15. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (See instruction on reverse)

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (Arrest) implements certain provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, which was enacted in September 1994 as Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and reauthorized in the Violence Against Women Act of 2000. The program enhances victim safety and offender accountability in cases of domestic violence and dating violence by encouraging jurisdictions to implement mandatory and pro-arrest policies as an effective domestic violence intervention that is part of a coordinated community response.

An integral component of Arrest Program initiatives is the creation and enhancement of collaborative partnerships between criminal justice agencies, victim services providers, and community organizations which respond to domestic violence.

The City of Lynchburg will build upon a citywide effort to develop a coordinated community response that focuses on community partnerships, shared resources, and the development of policies/procedures that will ensure victim safety. Through this award, the project goals are to: 1) continue implementation of mandatory arrest or pro-arrest programs and policies for protection order violations; 2) develop policies and training programs in police departments and other project partners to improve the handling of cases involving domestic violence and dating violence; 3) centralize and coordinate law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility for domestic violence cases; 4) coordinate a computer tracking system to ensure communication between project partners; 5) provide technical assistance and equipment to police departments and prosecutors to facilitate widespread enforcement of protection orders; 6) create community-driven initiatives in the underserved populations; 7) develop coordinated initiatives to address stalking; and 8) develop evaluation tools to enhance system accountability. The project partners are: Lynchburg Community Corrections and Pre-Trial Services, Lynchburg Police Department, Coalition Against Domestic Violence for the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District, YWCA Domestic Violence Prevention Center, Blue Ridge Regional Jail, City of Lynchburg, City of Lynchburg Attorney's Office, and Lynchburg General Hospital. The Lynchburg Attorney's Office is the lead agency for this project and will provide project coordination and oversight, as well as, statistical analysis.

CA/NCF